

REMARKS

Claims 7-15 are of record.

Each of the independent claims 7 and 15 has been amended. Claim 7 has been amended to set forth that the teeth of each pair of the plurality of teeth are spaced apart. Each pair of teeth is like a claw. There also is a space between two adjacent pairs of teeth of the chain. The material piece is carried on the chain in the space between two adjacent pair of teeth (see Figs. 4-6) to a pair of saw blades by being held in the space between the two adjacent pairs of teeth. Thus a piece of the material is carried to the saw blade by one chain. This is shown best in Figs. 4-6 of the application.

Claim 7 was rejected over the combination of Purcell, U.S. 4,445,411 in view of Roberson, et al, U.S. 3,779,117. Neither of the patents shows the arrangement of the single chain (see Fig. 6) having the successive pairs of spaced apart teeth with the material piece being carried in the space between two adjacent pairs of teeth holding the piece so that its ends can hang over the chain and be cut by a pair of saw blades. Therefore, this claim is allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to be directed to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 4-6. Claim 15 now calls for the teeth of each pair to be parallel and spaced apart to form a channel between each pair of spaced teeth. A belt fits into the channel of successive pairs of spaced teeth of the chain to engage the material piece. The engagement of the belt with the material piece will be in the channel holding the piece so that its ends can hang over the chain.

Claims 9, 11, 14 and 15 are rejected over Purcell in view of Roberson and further in view of Joa, U.S. 2,842,169. Claim 15 is the independent claim of this group.

In Joa, there are parallel drive chains 15 and 16. Each chain has L-shaped lugs 17. The workpiece 9 is placed across the chains and is held square in the L-shaped lugs of the chains. There is a "belt" 20 with pads 22. As shown best in Fig. 2, there is a belt 20 above each chain having pads 22 that engage the workpiece.

In essence, In Joa two chains are needed to carry the workpiece and there are two belts 20. This is in marked contrast to the subject invention wherein there is only a single drive chain to

carry the material piece that is held in the space between two adjacent pair of teeth by the belt that passes through the channels of successive pairs of teeth. This arrangement is novel in that the belt is in the channels of the successive teeth and the material piece between two adjacent pairs of teeth is held firmly. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claims 8, 9 and 11-14 depend directly or ultimately from claim 15. In view of the allowability of claim 15, these dependent claims also are allowable.

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and has been rejected over the combination of Purcell, Roberson and Joa. This claim also has been amended to set forth that the belt fits into the space between the teeth of a pair. As explained above, this is neither taught nor suggest by Joa. Therefore, this claim also is patentable and should be allowed.

New claim 16 depends from claim 15 and sets forth that the belt is continuous. In view of the allowability of claim 15, claim 16 should also be allowable.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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